

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for controllably
5 positioning a work implement of an earth moving
machine, the work implement including a boom, with
attachable rack and dump stops each having a physical
boundary, and an attachment being attached thereto,
where the boom is actuated by a hydraulic lift
10 cylinder and the attachment is actuated by a hydraulic
tilt cylinder, comprising:

implement position sensors that sense the
elevational position of the boom and the pivotal
position of the attachment and responsively produce
15 respective implement position signals;

a controller that receives the implement
position signals, compares the relative position of
the boom and the attachment with a pre-determined
boundary condition, and produces an electrical valve
20 signal; and

a valve assembly that receives said
electrical valve signal and controllably provides
hydraulic fluid flow to at least one hydraulic
cylinder in response to a magnitude of said electrical
25 valve signal.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1,
including at least one look-up table including a
plurality of implement position values corresponding
30 to a plurality of scaling values.

3. A method for controllably positioning a work implement of an earth moving machine, the work implement including a boom and an attachment being
- 5 attached thereto, the work implement including a hydraulic lift cylinder for lifting and lowering the boom and a hydraulic tilt cylinder for dumping and racking the attachment, comprising the steps of:
- 10 sensing the positions of the lift and tilt cylinders and producing respective implement position signals;
- receiving the implement position signals and producing an electrical valve signal based on a relative position of the boom and the attachment;
- 15 comparing the relative positions of the boom and the attachment with a pre-determined boundary position; and
- receiving the electrical valve signal and controllably providing hydraulic fluid flow to at
- 20 least one hydraulic cylinder in response to the relative positions of the boom and attachment in comparison with the pre-determined boundary position.
4. The method of claim 12, including the
- 25 steps of storing a look-up table that stores a plurality of scaling values that correspond to the position of the lift and the tilt cylinders.